

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 A-01 SS-15
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DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE, FOR OFFICE OF RICHARD HARDIN

DEPT FOR AF/W, AF/P, EUR

USICA FOR ICA/AF

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN) XT, XY, IT/ SOPN, FAO
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FAO DEPUTY GENERAL SAOUMA

1. MISS LILLIAN VISIT

I PAID A COURTESY CALL ON FAO DG SAOUMA THURSDAY,
JULY 27 TO THANK HIM AND FAO FOR THE CEREMONY, RECEPTION
AND LUNCHEON ON JULY 21 WHEN THE CERES MEDAL WAS
PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER. I NOTED TO THE DG,
THAT I, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND MISS LILLIAN WERE
EXCEEDINGLY PLEASED WITH THE WARMTH OF THE CEREMONY AND
THE RECEPTION AND THAT MISS LILLIAN WAS PLEASED WITH THE
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MEDAL AND SINCERELY HOPED THAT THE CEREMONY WOULD HAVE
A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MAKING THE WORLD MORE AWARE OF THE
FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEM. I ALSO NOTED THE
CEREMONY WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON
IMPROVING U.S./FAO RELATIONSHIPS AND I GAVE TO THE DG
THE GIFT PICTURE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, THE GIFT
PICTURE AND LETTER OF THANKS FROM MISS LILLIAN, MY OWN

LETTERS OF THANKS TO THE D.G. AND TO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WHO WORKED ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT.

2. OVERALL FAO/US RELATIONSHIPS

I TOOK THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO NOTE THE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN FAO AND THE UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST YEAR. I MADE REFERENCE TO A LUNCHEON ON JULY 26 AMONG GENVEN GROUP MEMBERS AND DR. SAOUMA'S OBVIOUS NEW EFFORT TO APPEAR FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE AND UNDERSTANDING.

3. FAO/CHINESE/RUSSIAN RELATIONSHIPS

THIS SUBJECT WAS RAISED BY DR. SAOUMA. HE WAS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT A BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN MADE IN WORK WITH CHINA. ALTHOUGH CHINA IS A 7 PERCENT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE FAO BUDGET, THEY HAVE HAD MINIMAL REPRESENTATION IN ROME AND HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED TECHNICAL CONTACTS WITH FAO. BUT THIS HAS CHANGED AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE AREAS OF SOIL AND SEEDS. FAO MISSIONS HAVE GONE TO CHINA AND A CHINESE TECHNICAL MISSION IS DUE IN ROME NEXT WEEK. BOTH SAOUMA AND I AGREED SUCH AN EXCHANGED WOULD BE USEFUL TECHNICALLY BOTH IN CHINA AND TO THE WEST. WHILE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW OPENNESS ARE NOT CLEAR, THE DIRECTION IS POSITIVE.

DURING THIS DISCUSSION DR. SAOUMA OBSERVED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT NOW MEMBER OF FAO. WHILE SOUNDINGS OF POSSIBLE SOVIET MEMBERSHIP HAVE BEEN MADE A NUMBER OF TIMES THROUGH THE SWEDISH REP. TO FAO, THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH. SAOUMA CONFIRMED THAT HE IS NOT GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO ENCOURAGE SOVIET MEMBERSHIP. THEIR MEMBERSHIP, HE SAID, MIGHT COST FAO MORE THAN IT WOULD GAIN THROUGH POLITICIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND RESTRICTION ON FAO INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY.

4. SAUDI ARABIA BECOMES A DONOR

A FINAL POINT MADE BY DR. SAOUMA, AND WITH OBVIOUS PRIDE, IS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NOW BECOME A DONOR OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAO PROGRAMS. WHILE THE AMOUNT IS RELATIVELY SMALL, JUST YESTERDAY, THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A 500,000 DOLS. CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAO TRUST FUND TO COMBAT THE EAST AFRICAN DESERT LOCUST OUTBREAK. HE HOPES, OF COURSE, NOW TO INVITE SAUDI ARABIA TO FUTURE DONOR MEETINGS ON OTHER PROGRAMS. THE U.S. SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT. GARDNER

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